

Agency Revision Team (ART)

M e m o r a n d u m

Date: May 29, 1998

To: CALFED Policy Group

From: Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

L. Snow
for Snow

Subject: Agency Revision Team (ART)

Summary

At its May 1 meeting, the CALFED Policy Group approved the formation of an interagency team, the Agency Revision Team (ART), to identify and address agency concerns and issues with the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report. ART will stage a two-day meeting on June 2 and 3 to identify issues requiring resolution and to determine how each CALFED agency will participate in resolving issues. For those issues which cannot be resolved by ART, a brief white paper will be prepared by ART delineating options for consideration by the CALFED Management Team and/or the Policy Group during the July and August meetings.

Detailed Discussion

The CALFED agencies, through participation in the CALFED process, are co-authors of the draft environmental documents. As such it makes sense that the agencies should not comment on their own documents through the public review process, but rather should make appropriate changes in the document as part of the transition from draft to final. ART has been formed to facilitate and coordinate the participation of CALFED agencies in the revision process.

ART is composed of one representative from each of the CALFED agencies. ART members are responsible for collecting their agency's comments and issues regarding the Draft PEIS/EIR and for determining how their agency will participate in resolving those issues. ART will meet weekly throughout the summer to chart the progress of issue resolution.

CALFED Agencies

California The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

Agency Revision Team (ART)
May 29, 1998
Page Two

ART held an organizational meeting on May 20, during which the representatives developed a framework for framing issues. This framework asks agencies to characterize each issue or concern by first determining when the issue needs to be resolved. That is, some issues will require resolution in order to select a preferred alternative, other issues will need to be resolved in time for inclusion in the Final PEIS/EIR, and some issues will need to be resolved either prior to, or as part of, the first implementation stage of Phase III. The question of when an issue needs to be resolved must be balanced with the appropriate level of detail that is necessary for resolution. For instance, resolving an issue before the preferred alternative is selected limits the agencies to considering existing information, while an issue that requires modest additional technical studies may be resolved before release of the Final PEIS/EIR. The following table demonstrates the balance between the allowable level of detail and the timeframe for resolving an issue:

When Issue Needs Resolution?	Appropriate Level of Detail
Prior to Selection of a Preferred	Programmatic—Use of Existing Information
For Inclusion in the Final PEIS/EIR	Programmatic—Use of Existing Information with
Before Implementation/Construction	Project Specific—High Level of Detail

If ART is unable to achieve consensus on an issue, then it will compose a brief white paper outlining possible options and forward the issue to the CALFED Management Team and Policy Group for their consideration. Consequently, both the Management Team and the Policy Group should anticipate deliberating issues at their July and August meetings.

Action Required

This is an information and discussion item.

Attachment